

e.g., *Ricinus bombycillae* on *Bombycilla garrulus* (Bechet 1961, 1962; Negru 1962); *Ricinus irascens* on *Fringilla coelebs* (Bechet 1961, 1962); *Ricinus japonicus* on *Anthus spinoletta* (Negru 1959; Bechet 1961, 1962); *Ricinus subpallidus* on *Prunella collaris* (Negru 1963). Though *Myrsidea ananthakrishnani* (Rai 1978), *M. assamensis* and *M. manipurensis* (Tandan 1972) have been reported from North-east India, more research is required to document the avian louse in this region.

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8. REDISCOVERY OF *MURDANNIA STRIATIPETALA* (COMMELINACEAE) – A LITTLE KNOWN SPECIES FROM SOUTHERN INDIA WITH A NOTE ON ITS IDENTITY AND DISTRIBUTION

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Murdannia is a pantropical genus belonging to Family Commelinaceae with c. 50 species residing in warm temperate and a variety of open mesic or occasionally aquatic habitats, rarely in forests (Faden 1998, 2000). In India, the genus is represented by 24 species (modified after Karthikeyan *et al.*

1989) of which four species, one subspecies and one variety are endemic to Peninsular India and many of which are restricted to southern peninsular India (Ahmedulla and Nayar 1987).

While working on the revision of Indian Spiderworts, during exploration of localities, one of the authors came across

a population of an interesting species of genus *Murdannia* at Thirumullaivoyal (04.ii.2010, 13° 12' 50" N; 80° 11' 49" E), on the banks of Red Hills lake, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India) growing in a marshy area, 28 m above msl. After critical observation and referring available literature, the specimen was found to be *Murdannia striatipetala* Faden [MDN 204 (SUK)].

Murdannia striatipetala is a dazzling but little known species of southern India. It was described by Faden (2001) based on his earlier collection from Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in 1977. According to him, *M. striatipetala* is closely related to *M. spirata*, but characters such as definite base, narrow leaves, dark-veined petals, and short appressed hairs on the stamen and filaments had made it distinct. In addition, restricted habitat of *M. striatipetala* against widespread habitat of *M. spirata* was notable. Inflorescence of *M. dimorphoides* closely resembles *M. striatipetala*.

Contrasting dark-veined petals are also characteristic of *Murdannia spirata* (L.) Bruckner var. *parviflora* Faden (endemic to Sri Lanka, Faden 2001), but it differs from *M. striatipetala* by characters like indefinite base, flower c. 10-12 mm wide, stamen dimorphism, enantiostyly, lateral embryotega, etc. The distribution of this species was reported to be northern Sri Lanka and southern India, which Faden widened on the basis of earlier collections from India. He designated Indian collection as paratypes for *M. striatipetala* [Paratypes: INDIA: Districts unknown: Tambaram district, Chennai, Barnes 716 (K), 717 (K); Tada, Bourne 2784 (K); Nungambakam, 15.xi.1899, Bourne (from K. Rungachari) s.n. (K); Chingput, Guindy, 1885, Lawson s.n. (K)] (Faden 2001). However, the deposition made earlier was not appropriately treated, while some were without names.

After detailed examination of specimen from mentioned locality and comparing the account by Faden, the authors observed that *Murdannia striatipetala* resembles *M. spirata* in vegetative forms except dark-veined petals. But short-lived flowers lasting for only few hours may be the reason for confusion of *M. striatipetala* with *M. spirata* resulting into negligence of species by post Bourne workers on Indian Commelinaceae.

All the paratypes were collected from Tamil Nadu state of India, namely Tambaram, (Kanchipuram district); Tada, (Nellore district); Nungambakkam and Guindy (Chennai district). Our present locality is at a distance of 25-60 km from all the above localities and elevation is not more than 28 m above msl. This additional data on its distribution confirms the noteworthy comments on the distribution of *Murdannia striatipetala* in southern India by Faden (2000).

Apart from the earlier collections by some workers, namely Barnes, Bourne, Rungachari and Lawson (1885-1899), the species is surprisingly neglected by descendants till date. *Murdannia striatipetala* is reported to be collected after a lapse of 111 years from southern India after Barnes and Bourne (1899). This species has not been included in any publication after Faden's identification. So the present work stands as the first proposal for the addition of *M. striatipetala* to Indian flora.

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9. *JUNCUS BUFONIUS* L. – AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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Introduction

The genus *Juncus* comprises of about 300 species (Mabberley 2002) varying from dwarf ephemeral annuals to

large tufted or rhizomatous perennials. In India, the genus is represented by 44 species and 5 varieties (Karthikeyan et al. 1989). Two species of *Juncus* are so far reported for the state